



Planning for Alaska's State Land

How classifications are assigned and changed

Why Develop Plans?

Statutory Requirements

- AS 38.04.005 establishes the focus for state land management: “to provide for the maximum use of state land consistent with the public interest.” This is achieved through planning and classification processes.
- AS 38.04.065 requires the Commissioner to prepare and revise regional land use plans with local governmental and public involvement “that provide for the use and management of state-owned land.”

Why Develop Plans?

Functional Reasons

- Achieve a more efficient use of state resources since decisions are made on a comprehensive basis.
- Provide clarity and predictability providing transparency and efficiency for the public and DNR. The public knows what can and cannot occur on state land.
- Provides the opportunity for the public to participate in resource and land use decision making at the policy level.

How Plans are Developed

It's a process

- **STEP 1 - *Identify Issues*** - Hold public meetings to identify issues & concerns in the planning area.
- **STEP 2 - *Gather Information*** - Throughout the planning process collect information about natural resources, present and past land use, land ownership, and the local economy.
- **STEP 3 - *Prepare and Evaluate Land Use Alternatives*** - Describe possible choices for managing state land based on public interests, local resources, and state policies. Describe the effects of each choice on goals for the management of an area.



How Plans are Developed

It's a process



- **STEP 4 - *Prepare Draft Plan*** - Create a draft plan that reflects resource values and public and agency goals. The agencies review the first draft and settle any land use conflicts that remain, or propose the best alternatives for public review.
- **STEP 5 - *Public Review of Draft Plan*** - Hold public meetings to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the draft plan and to identify parts that need to be changed.
- **STEP 6 - *Prepare Final Plan*** - Review agency & public comments and revise the plan.
- **STEP 7 - *Approve Plan*** - The Commissioner approves and signs the plan.
- **STEP 8 - *Implement Plan*** - The plan guides management decisions within the planning area.

How Plans Affect State Land Management

- Identify lands to be retained in state ownership
- Provide guidance for uses and resources by assigning classifications and management intent
- Lands can only be classified through a land use plan.
- Provide guidance on buffers, setbacks, and easements along water bodies.
- Informs other land managers, municipalities, and the public of DNR's long-term management intent.

Classification

A classification means the designation of land according to its primary use, and in a manner that will provide maximum benefit to the people of Alaska

All classifications are intended to be multiple use

11 AAC 55.070

- **11 AAC 55.070 Forest Land.** Land classified forest is land that is or has been forested and is suited for forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions.

11 AAC 55.200

- **11 AAC Resource Management Land.** Land classified resource management is either
 - (1) land that might have a number of important resources but for which a specific resource allocation decision is not possible because of a lack of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information, or is not necessary because the land is presently inaccessible and remote and development is not likely to occur within the next 10 years; or
 - (2) land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use.

11 AAC 55.200

- **11 AAC 55. 230 Wildlife Habitat Land.** Land classified wildlife habitat is land which is primarily valuable for (1) fish and wildlife resource production, whether existing or through habitat manipulation, to supply sufficient numbers or a diversity of species to support commercial, recreational, or traditional uses on an optimum sustained yield basis; or (2) a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species of regional, state, or national significance.

Plan Modifications

Plans are department policy but can be changed

- Types of Changes
 - Revisions
 - Amendment
 - Permanently changes plan
 - Special Exception
 - Allows one-time limited variance from plan
 - Minor Change
 - Technical corrections, clarifications

Questions ?

